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Lake Sidney Lanier Cultural Resource Survey and Inventory

A project sponsored by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District

Under
Indefinite Delivery Contract for Performance
of Cultural Resources Services within the
Civil Boundaries of the Mobile District.
Mobile, Alabama

Contract No. DACW01-87-D-0020

Delivery Order No. 1

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In December of 1987, the Jacksonville State University Archaeological Resource Laboratory conducted a cultural resource survey and inventory of approximately 480 acres of Federal Reservation properties on Lake Sidney Lanier, Georgia. The majority of the survey area is characterized by sandy, undulating floodplain terrain, covered with bottomland woods and capped by 1 to 3 meters (3-6 feet) of alluvial deposits. Although this thick alluvial sand cap impeded the location of archaeological resources, one Woodland/Mississippian ceremic bearing site was located and three historic features, two bridge sites

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and one foundation site, were observed. None of these cultural resources warranted further investigation.

COESAM/PDER-88/004

LAKE SIDNEY LANIER CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY AND INVENTORY

by

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Submitted to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mobile District

P.O. Box 2288
Mobile, Alabama

Contract No: DACW01-87-D-0020

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Harry O. Holstein, Ph.D.

Principal Investigator

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I would also like to thank Dr. Harold J. McGee, President of Jacksonville State University and Dr. James E. Wade, Dean of the College of Letters and Sciences for their encouragement and support in conducting this contract.

I would also like to thank Mr. Mike Kittrell for his time and effort in drafting the maps for the report.

Harry O. Holstein
Principal Investigator

ABSTRACT

In December of 1987, the Jacksonville State University Archaeological Resource Laboratory conducted a cultural resource survey and inventory of approximately 480 acres of Federal Reservation properties on Lake Sidney Lanier, Georgia. The majority of the survey area is characterized by sandy, undulating floodplain terrain, covered with bottomland woods and capped by 1 to 3 meters (3-6 feet) of alluvial deposits. Although this thick alluvial sand cap impeded the location of archaeological resources, one Woodland/Mississippian ceramic bearing site was located and three historic features, two bridge sites and one foundation site, were observed. None of these cultural resources warranted further investigation.

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INTRODUCTION

In December 1987, the Jacksonville State Archaeological Resource Laboratory conducted an intensive pedestrian archaeological survey to assist the Mobile District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers in the management of cultural resources. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers selected tracts of United States reservation property in the area of Lake Sidney Lanier, northern Georgia. This project was conducted and sponsored as part of the Indefinite Delivery Contract for Performance of Cultural Resources Services within the Civil Boundaries of the Mobile District, Mobile, Alabama (Contract No. DACW01-87-D-0020) awarded to Jacksonville State University.

The specific goal of this project was to survey selected tracts of land deemed to have a high potential for cultural resources by the Georgia State Preservation Officer. Cultural resources located and documented during the survey were to be evaluated as to their potential eligibility for nomination for the National Register of Historic Places.

The data generated from this survey represents the final stages of a systematic attempt to obtain an adequate cultural resource inventory for Lake Sidney Lanier project lands. The initial survey was begun in 1978 by the University of Georgia and and subsequent surveys were conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staff archaeologists.

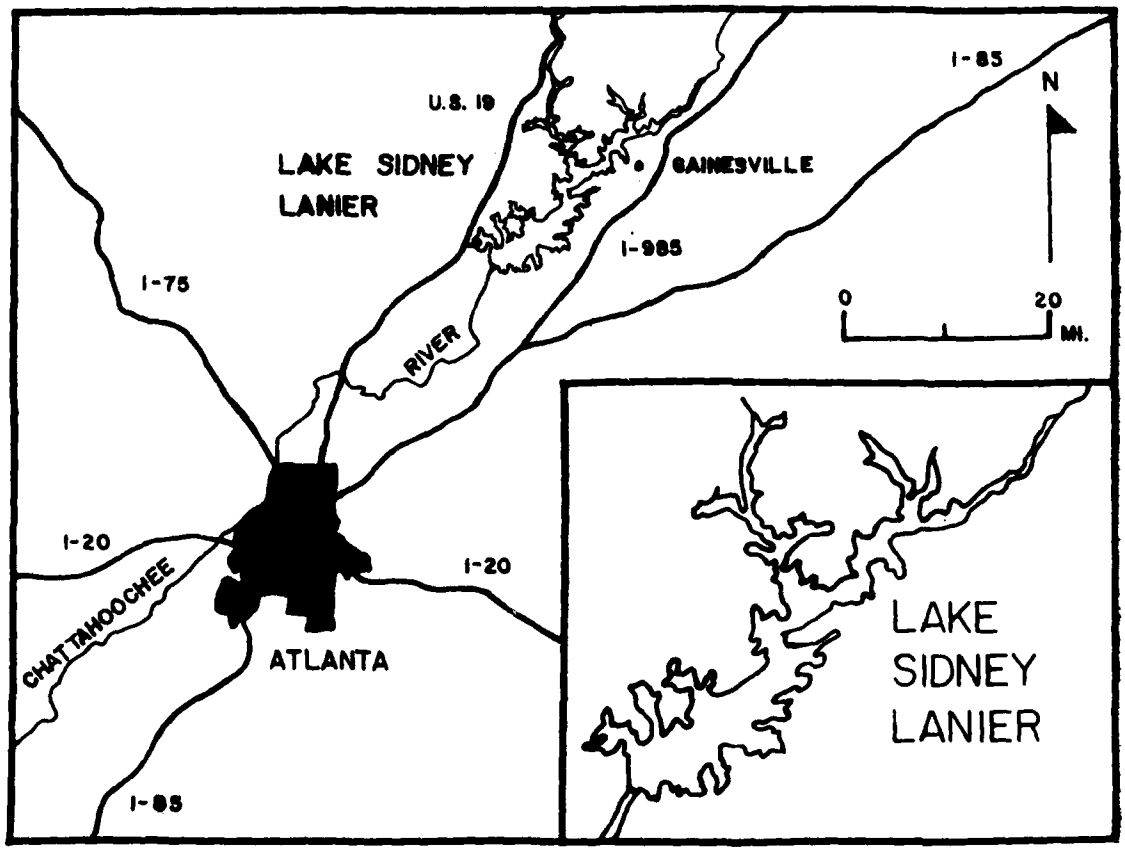
Approximately 194 hectares (480 acres) of selected tracts of government properties were systematically investigated adjacent to the Chattahoochee River, East Fork of Little River, and Mud Creek in Hall County; the Chestatee River in Lumpkin County; and Fourmile Creek in Forsyth County, all of which are contiguous to or within the Lake Sidney Lanier impoundment. Lake Sidney Lanier is the result of Buford Dam which is located in the Chattahoochee River approximately 56 kilometers (35 miles) northeast of Atlanta, Georgia. The majority of the survey area represents the upper most portions of the Lake Sidney Lanier impoundment.

The actual field survey was conducted in two stages; an initial cultural resource reconnaissance and an intensive pedestrian/boat site survey. An initial cultural resource reconnaissance was undertaken by Harry O. Holstein, Principal Investigator and Michele J. Champagne, field assistant, on December 19 and 20, 1987. The cultural resource reconnaissance consisted of several segments: a windshield survey that allowed the surveyors to become familiar with the project area terrain; obtaining pertinent landowner permission; interviewing local residents; and initial visual observations of optimal high sensitivity areas for cultural resources.

The second stage of the field survey was an intensive pedestrian/ boat site survey conducted by Harry O. Holstein, Principal Investigator, Caleb Curren, field archaeologist, and Michele Champagne, field assistant. The site survey differed from the site reconnaissance in that it involved subsurface testing, artifact recovery, and a more systematic

ground surveillance. The main purpose of this portion of the field survey was to locate cultural resources, to determine their site integrity and make a preliminarily determination as to their potential for eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. Four field days, December 26, 27, 28 and 29, 1987, were spent on this segment of the field survey.

FIGURE 1
LOCATION OF PROJECT



The field survey located one Woodland/Mississippian site, two historic bridge pier sites, and one historic foundation. None of these sites were determined to be eligible for recommendation for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and only the prehistoric site was recorded on Georgia Archaeological Site Forms.

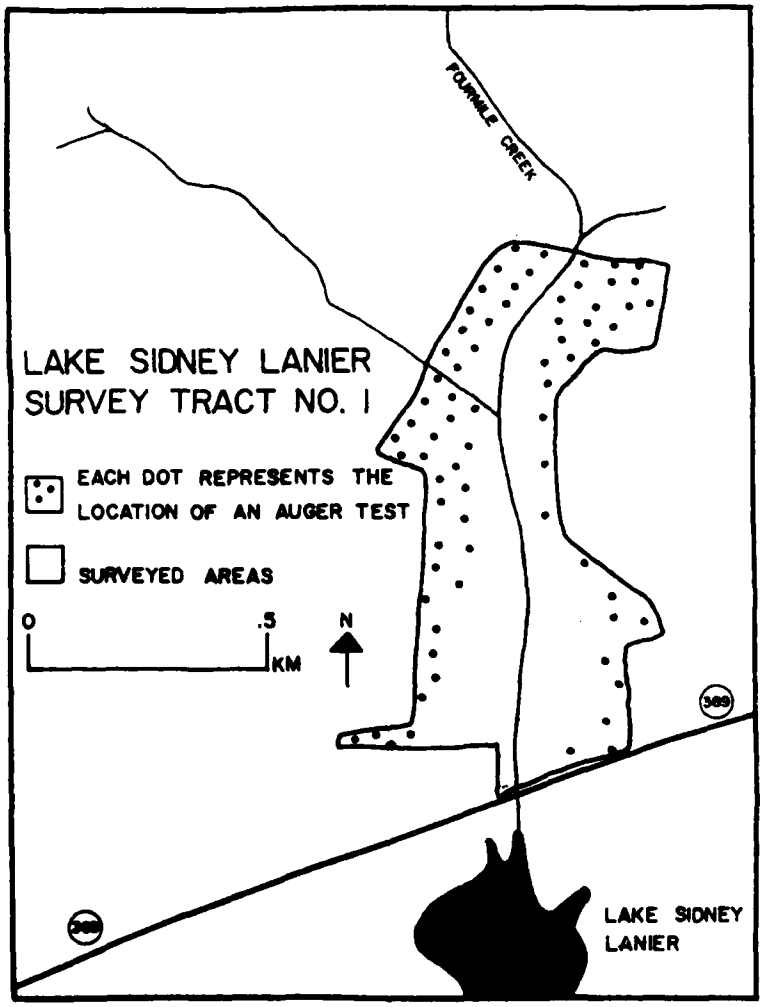
ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project area represented seven surveyed tracts of land adjacent to Fourmile Creek, Mud Creek, the Chattahoochee River, and the Chestatee River within the federal reservation lands boundary of the Lake Sidney Lanier impoundment.

Survey Tract No. 1

Survey Tract No. 1 is located approximately 11 kilometers (7 miles) northeast of Buford Dam adjacent to Fourmile Creek. The property is located between Universal Transverse Mercator coordinates 3794561m North and 3793512m North on the USGS 7.5 minute Murrayville, Georgia topographic quadrangle map. The elevation of Survey Tract No. 1 lies between 329 meters (1080 feet) above mean sea level and 347 meters (1140 feet) above mean sea level. (See Figure 2)

FIGURE NO. 2
SURVEY TRACT NO. 1

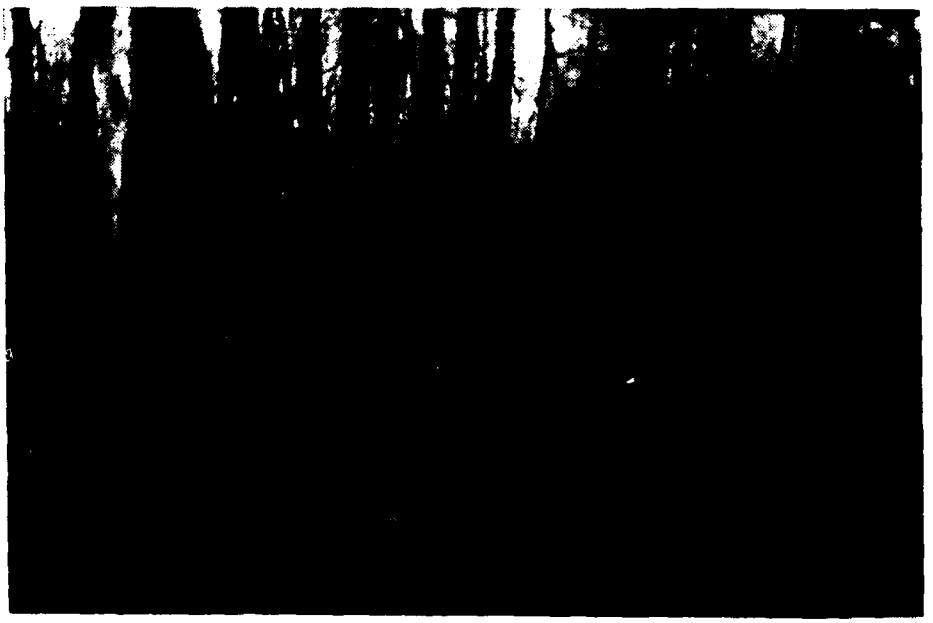


COAL MOUNTAIN, GA. AND BUFORD DAM, GA. QUADRANGLES 7.5' TOPOGRAPHIC

Survey Tract No. 1 encompasses approximately 24 hectares (60 acres) of swamp and bottomland woods along the east and west banks of Fourmile Creek. The majority of the southern portions of this survey tract were, in shallow standing water (swamp) in December 1987 while the driest portions of the survey tract were located along the slopes of the low hills which flank the narrow (less than 300 Meters) Fourmile Creek floodplain. Presently, Georgia Highway 369 borders the southern portion of Survey Tract No. 1. Along the eastern margin of the property is pasture land while mixed hardwood/pine woods border the northern and western margins of the property.

The majority of the vegetation within Survey Tract No. 1 consists of bottomland and swamp vegetation. Cottonwood, pines, oaks and hickory trees dominate most of the project area. In open areas cane and grasses occur. The majority of the project area soils have a stratigraphy of a

SURVEY TRACT NO. 1



thin 3-5 cm (1.18-1.97 inches) brown, and black humus layer overlying a one meter (3 feet) yellow sandy layer that overlays a reddish-orange clay. Along the flanks of the hills within the project area auger tests indicated a severe eroded situation with only 15 cm (6 inches) of yellow sand overlying reddish orange clay. One historic foundation was located in the eastern portion of Survey Tract No. 1 near Highway 369. This structure appears to represent an agricultural outbuilding.

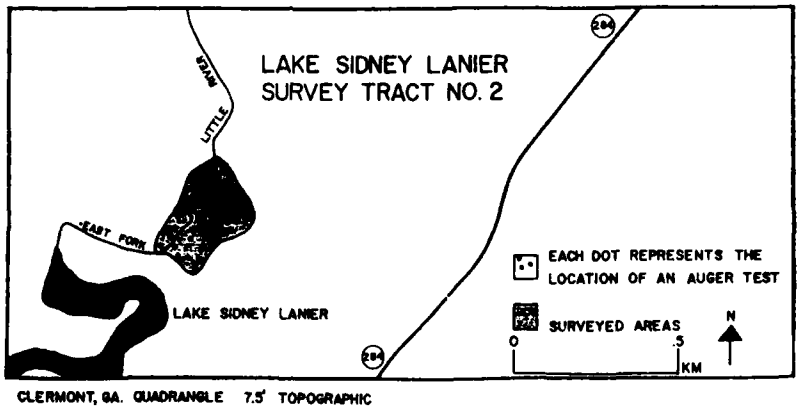
Survey Tract No. 2

Survey Tract No. 2 encompasses approximately 8 hectares (20 acres)

along the East Fork of Little River. This project area lies approximately 10 kilometers (6 miles) west of the town of Lula in the upper northeast portion of the Lake Sidney Lanier impoundment. The property is located between Universal Transverse Mercator coordinates 3807610m North and 3807195m North on the USGS 7.5 minute Clermont, Georgia topographic quadrangle map. The elevation of Survey Tract No. 2 lies between 329 meters (1080 feet) and 335 meters (1100 feet) above sea level.

The entire Survey Tract No. 2 is level floodplain. The East Fork of Little River meanders along the western edge of the property. This stream occasionally leaves its bank and cuts across the project area resulting in the present highly undulated ground surface. In several low areas near the creek, 1 to 15 cm (1/2-6 inches) of standing water was observed. The majority of Survey Tract No. 2 is pasture. Bottomland woods are loated along the creek and in the northern and southern portion of the tract across the northeastern edge of the property. Stream cutbanks

FIGURE NO. 3
SURVEY TRACT NO. 2



CLERMONT, GA. QUADRANGLE 7.5' TOPOGRAPHIC

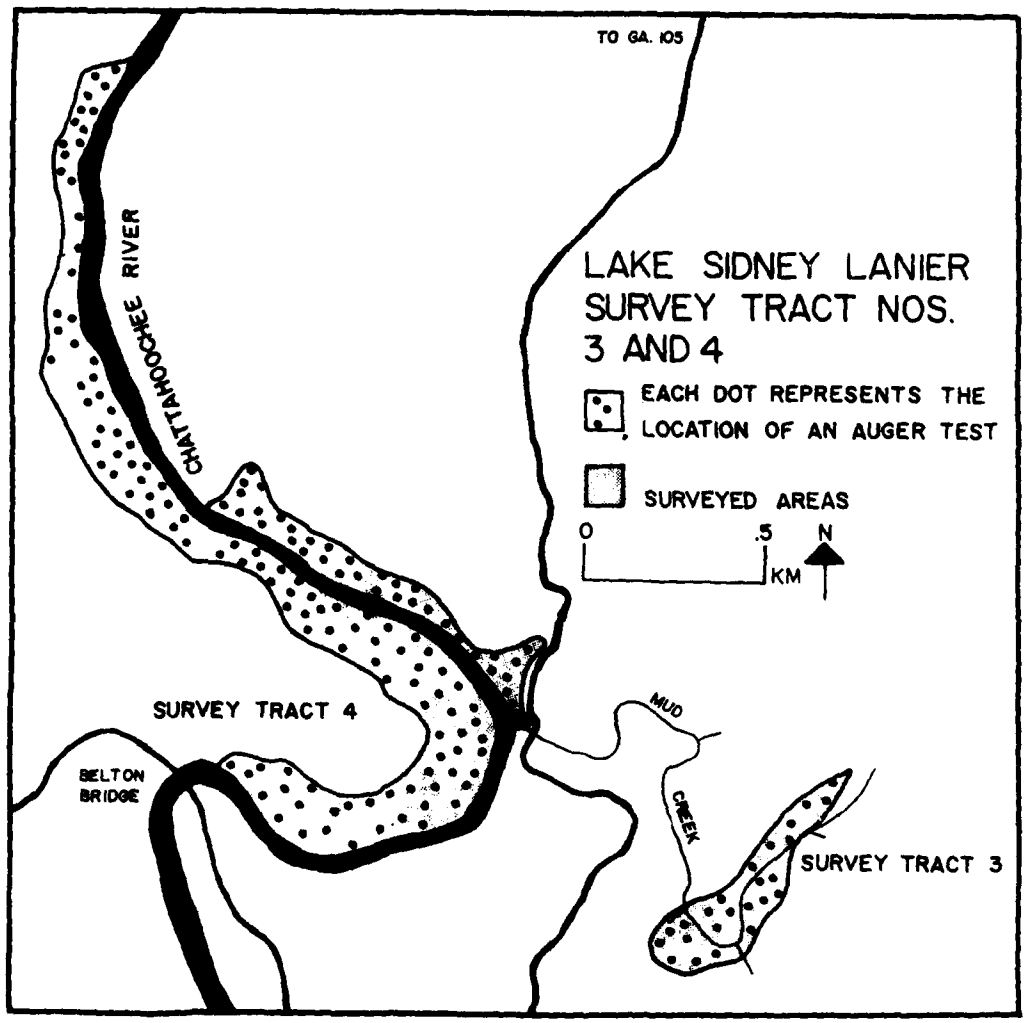
and auger tests indicated a soil stratigraphy of one meter or more of yellow sand overlaying reddish sandy clay.

SURVEY TRACT NO. 2

Survey Tract No. 3

Survey Tract No. 3 encompasses approximately 12 hectares (30 acres) of land along Mud Creek. This project area lies approximately 4 kilometers (2.5 miles) north of the town of Lula, Georgia. The property is located between Universal Transverse Mercator coordinates 3814659m North and 3814000m North on the USGS 7.5 minute Lula, Georgia topographic quadrangle map. The elevation of Survey Tract No. 3 lies between 329 meters (1080 feet) and 335 meters (1100 feet) above mean sea level. (See Figure 4)

FIGURE 4



LULA, GA. QUADRANGLE 7.5' TOPOGRAPHIC

The entire Survey Tract No. 3 is level floodplain. Mud Creek meanders through the center of the property flowing from the northeast to the southwest corner where the creek leaves the property and flows westward for less than one kilometer (.6 mile) to its confluence with the Chattahoochee River.

The vegetation in the project area consists of dense cane, brush, and grass with bottomland woods. No cultural landmarks are visible in the project area. The entire project area is flanked by steep hills.

Stream bank profiles and auger tests indicated a soil stratigraphy of one meter (3 feet) or more of yellow sand overlying reddish sandy clay.

SURVEY TRACT NO. 3

Survey Tract No. 4

Survey Tract No. 4 encompasses approximately 57 hectares (140 acres) along the Chattahoochee River. The project area lies approximately 5 kilometers (3 miles) north of the town of Lula, Georgia and immediately upstream from the Belton Bridge. The property is located between Universal Transverse Mercator coordinates 3816610m North and 3814415m North on the USGS 7.5 minute Lula, Georgia topographic quadrangle map. The elevation of Survey Tract No. 4 lies between 341 meters (1120 feet) and 354 meters (1160 feet) above the mean sea level. (See Figure 4)

The entire Survey Tract No. 4 lies within the Chattahoochee River floodplain. The western bank portion of the survey tract is a series of point bar sand levees, separated by shallow swales, and/or old meander channels interspersed with swamp. As a result of the series of levees and swales, the topography is undulated. No major terraces were observed. River bank soil profiles and auger tests indicated a soil stratigraphy of one to three meters thick (3-10 feet) yellow/tan sand overlying a reddish-orange clay/sand.

The vegetation of Survey Tract No. 4 was bottomland woods and swamp. Deciduous trees (e.g. cottonwoods) dominate the tree species. Dense brush, vines, briers, and cane were frequently encountered.

The eastern bank portion of Survey Tract No. 4 is narrower and not as undulated as the western side of the Chattahoochee River. The vegetation and soil profile is the same as along the western side. Bedrock,

however, is frequently exposed along the channels cut bank. One historic feature was observed at the confluence of Mud Creek and the Chattahoochee River, the remains of an old bridge, which had once crossed Mud Creek.

SURVEY TRACT NO. 4

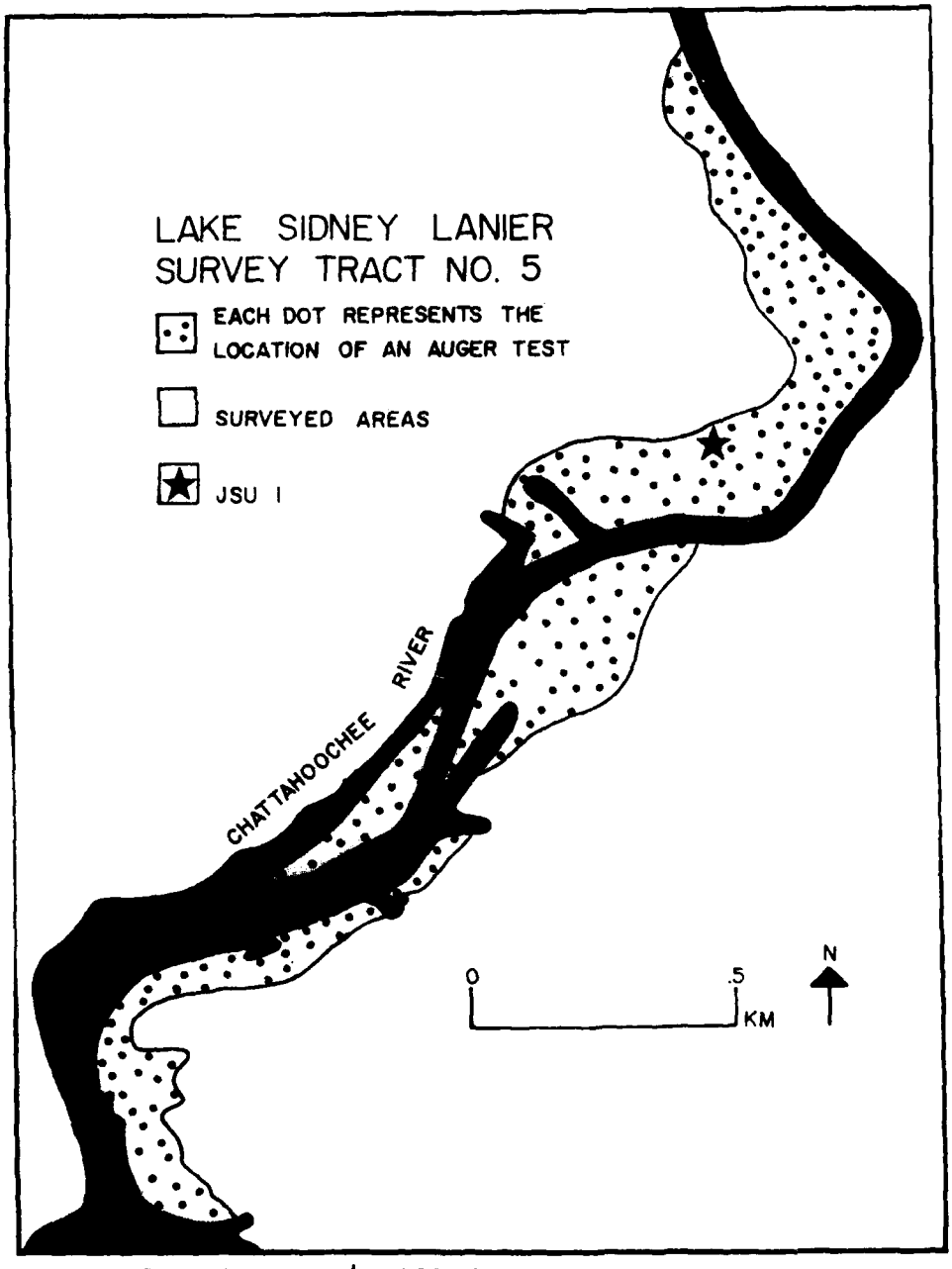
Survey Tract No. 5

Survey Tract No. 5 encompasses approximately 40 hectares (100 acres) along the Chattahoochee River. The project area lies approximately 4 kilometers (2.5 miles) north of the town of Lula, Georgia, and it is less than .5 kilometer (.30 miles) south, downstream, from Belton Bridge. (See Figure 5) The property is located between Universal Transverse Mercator coordinates 3814244m North and 3811951m North on the USGS 7.5 minute Lula, Georgia topographic quadrangle map. The elevation of Survey Tract No. 5 lies between 323 meters (1060 feet) and 335 meters (1100 feet) above mean sea level.

As with Survey Tract No. 4, Survey Tract No. 5 lies within the Chattahoochee River floodplain and exhibits similar topographic characteristics. In areas within Survey Tract No. 5 inside of the river bends, the terrain is characterized by sandy point bars and levees interspaced by shallow swales. The terrain in these locales is undulated. In areas paralleling the river where the channel took a straight course, the land is leveler.

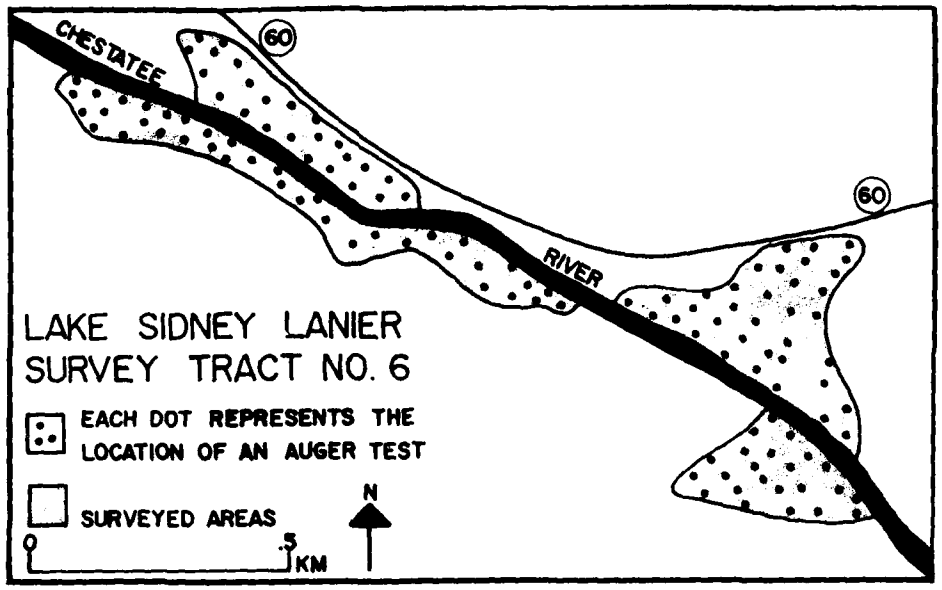
River bank soil profiles and auger tests indicated a soil stratigraphy of one to three meters (3-10 feet) thick yellow/tan sand overlying

SURVEY TRACT NO. 5



LULA, GA. QUADRANGLE 7.5' TOPOGRAPHIC

FIGURE NO. 6
SURVEY TRACT NO. 6



MURRAYVILLE, GA. QUADRANGLE 7.5' TOPOGRAPHIC

The entire project area lies within the narrow Chestatee River floodplain. The majority of the terrain is relatively level with some low ridge spurs in the northwest corner of Survey Tract No. 6. Along the western bank, the floodplain is quite narrow (30 meters or less) or nonexistant. In this portion of the project area the surrounding hills extend down to the river channel. Along the western bank bedrock was frequently observed. The eastern bank portion of the project area is flat.

The majority of the project area vegetation consists of plant species associated with active and fallow pasture. Bottomland woods dominate the narrow strip of land on the west bank except in the extreme southeast corner which is a fallow pasture. Riverbank soil profiles, auger tests, and construction areas indicated a one to two meters (3-7 feet) thick layer of brown sandy loam overlying a reddish sand/clay.

One historic feature was observed on the eastern bank just west of the junction of Highways 60 and 400. A cement bridge pier and an associated road access berm were observed. Recent historic impact has been the greatest in the vicinity of the intersection of Highways 60 and 400. The construction of a service/food store and Highway 400 both have disturbed the floodplain.

SURVEY TRACT NO. 6

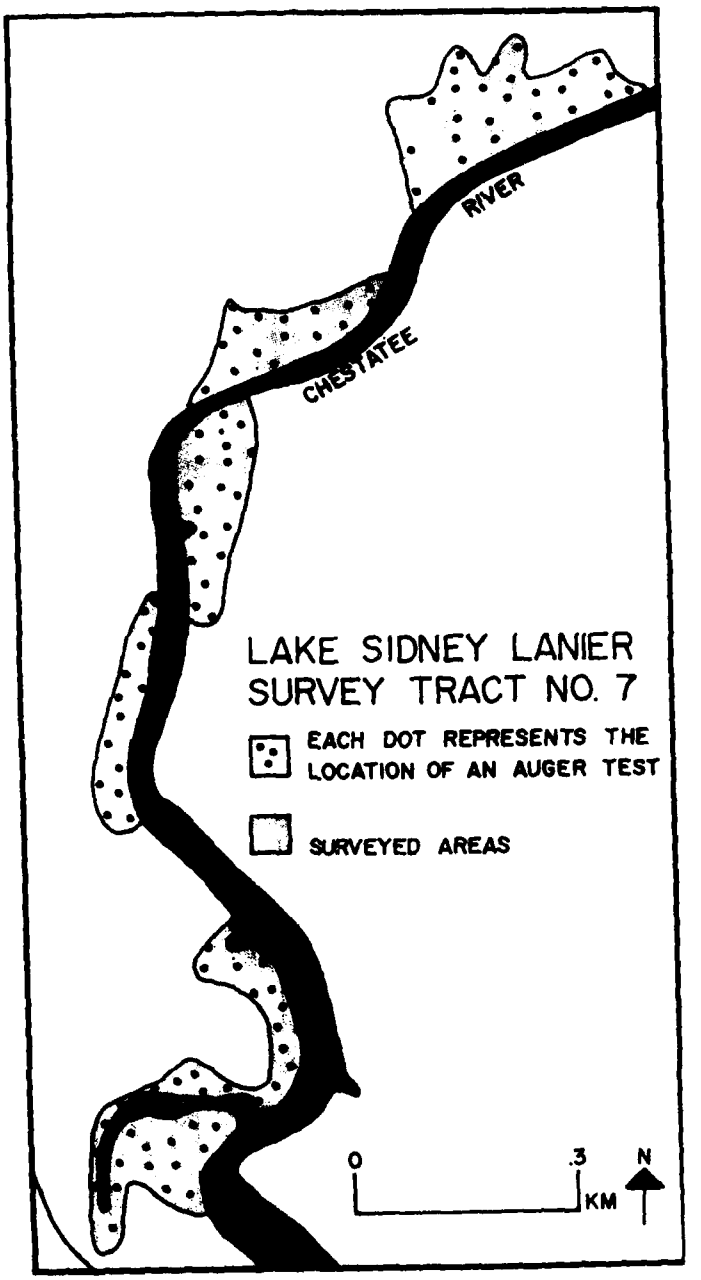
Survey Tract No. 7

Survey Tract No. 7 encompasses approximately 28 hectares (70 acres) along the Chestatee River. Survey tract No. 7 lies approximately one kilometer (.6 miles) downstream from Survey Tract No. 6. (See Figure 7) The property is located between Universal Transverse Mercator coordinates 3816561m North and 3814220 m North on the USGS, 7.5 minute, Murrayville, Georgia topographic quadrangle map.

The entire project area lies within the narrow Chestatee River floodplain. The majority of the project area is situated along the western shore with a small parcel of project land being located in the inside of a meander curve on the east side of the channel. The terrain is relatively level adjacent to the channel but rises sharpely as one moves away from the river. In several areas, the surrounding hills come down directly onto the river channel. Bedrock is frequently visible in these areas.

The vegetation in the level areas adjacent to the river is bottomland woods. In the areas where the hills come down to the shore, their flanks are covered with mixed pine-hardwood forest. No prehistoric or historic sites were observed on Survey Tract No. 7.

FIGURE NO. 7
SURVEY TRACT NO. 7



MURRAYVILLE, GA. QUADRANGLE 7.5' TOPOGRAPHIC

SURVEY TRACT NO. 7

PREVIOUS RESEARCH

The previous archaeological research conducted in northern Georgia is characterized by periods of frenzied archaeological activity followed by relatively long periods of inactivity. As with much of the eastern United States, one of the first published references near the project area were the occurrence of aboriginal mounds. In 1891, Cyrus Thomas noted the presence of mounds in both Forsythe and Hall Counties (Thomas, 1891). In that same publication, Thomas mentioned the presence of a mica quarry, also in Hall County.

Following Thomas' initial research, a 48 year archaeological research drought occurred in northern Georgia. It was not until 1939 that subsequent archaeological research was begun. In 1939 as part of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), Robert Wauchope conducted extensive archaeological surveys in northern Georgia. As a result of this research, he located 7 sites in Hall County and 8 sites in Forsythe County (Wauchope, 1966).

Another void in northern Georgia archaeological research occurred during the 1940's. However, an increase of archaeological activity began in the 1950's with the construction of Buford Dam. Under the sponsorship of the River Basin Surveys of the Smithsonian Institute, sixty prehistoric sites were located and subsequently several of these sites were excavated (Caldwell, 1953; 1954; 1955; 1958; Caldwell, Thompson, and Caldwell, 1952; Fairbanks, 1954; 1956; Wauchope, 1953; DeBaillou, 1954).

Following the 1950's there was a decrease in archaeological activity. Sporatic surveys were conducted during the 1960's and early 1970's resulting in the discovery of a few additional sites. This situation again changed when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, awarded a cultural resources survey and inventory contract to the University of Georgia to survey portions of Hall, Forsythe, Gwinett, Davison, and Lumpkin Counties with the expressed purpose of: 1) locating and describing cultural resources within the project area; 2) determining each site's significance and its eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places; 3) evaluating potential effects that natural and cultural processes have upon the sites; and 4) recommending pertinent sites for future mitigation. As a result of this research 445 prehistoric sites were located. However, only 128 sites yielded diagnostic temporal artifacts which would permit the researchers to assign sites to appropriate archaeological time periods (Rudolph and Hally, 1982).

The University of Georgia conducted the actual fieldwork on the Lake Lanier project during 1978 and 1979. The survey included approximately 2452 hectares (6060 acres) or 30 percent of the land surface on Federal Reservation areas above the Lake Sidney Lanier normal pool level. Since that survey, U. S. Army Corps Engineers, Mobile District archaeologists have revisited all of the cultural resources recommended by the University for further investigation. As a result of this effort four cultural resources have been deemed potentially significant.

Of the remaining 70 percent of the unsurveyed land surface on the Government owned lands above Lake Sidney Lanier normal pool level, the Georgia State Preservation Officer recommended 194 hectares (480 acres) of land which SPHO considered to be high potential areas for cultural resources. Jacksonville State University Archaeological Resource Laboratory was issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, the delivery order to conduct the final portion of the Lake Sidney Lanier cultural resource survey.

METHODOLOGY

The cultural resource survey and inventory of approximately 194 hectares (480 acres) within the Federal property of Lake Sidney Lanier by the Jacksonville State University Archaeological Resource Laboratory was conducted over a six day period in December 1987. In order for any cultural resources located during the survey to be considered an archaeological site, these cultural resources had to comply with the site definition as strictly defined in the Scope of Work "a minimum of ten artifacts must be recovered from the surface and subsurface testing of a specific location, or structural remains must be identified." The actual field survey consisted of two phases: initial windshield survey/assessment phase; and a pedestrian/boat survey phase.

INITIAL WINDSHIELD SURVEY/ASSESSMENT PHASE

The initial windshield survey/assessment phase was completed on December 19th and 20th. This phase was conducted with the expressed purpose

of becoming familiar with the project terrain; obtaining necessary landowner land access permission; interviewing appropriate artifact collectors; and estimating equipment needs to successfully and efficiently complete the survey. During the initial windshield survey/assessment phase it was determined the project area terrain was rugged and the Lake Sidney Lanier water level was extremely low.

PEDESTRIAN/BOAT SURVEY PHASE

Survey Tract No. 1

The pedestrian/boat survey phase was completed on December 26th, 27th, 28th, and 29th. The pedestrian/boat survey phase began at Survey Tract No. 1 along Fourmile Creek. Beginning in the southeast corner at Highway 369 of Survey Tract No. 1, the surveyors walked six parallel north/south linear transects across the property, utilizing a compass, natural boundaries of the land, and land surveyor stakes and flagging tape as visual property markers. At the end of the first north linear transect, the surveyors proceeded to move approximately 30 to 50 meters (98 to 164 feet) to their left and commenced another linear transect sweeping southward back to the southwest corner of the property. All attempts were made to maintain the 30 meter (98 feet) distance between surveyors. Level dry areas and high areas such as terraces and ridge spurs received greater ground surveillance and subsurface auger testing than did areas of great slopes (over 10%), or areas of recent historic impact such as the Highway 369 road berm. Most of the central and southern portions of the project area is in standing water. These areas were deemed extremely "low probability" for human occupation, and these areas were not transversed.

Limited subsurface testing (augering) was conducted along the north/south transects. Approximately every 50 meters (164 feet) along the transects, the surveyors would clear a one square meter area of surface debris and place a subsurface auger test. The hand auger tests were excavated to a depth of approximately 1 meter. Additional auger tests were conducted on ridge spurs and in the vicinity of the historic feature. (See Figure 2)

Approximately 50 - 75 meters (164-246 feet) north of Highway 369 in the southeast corner of the project area, the surveyors encountered the only cultural resource on Survey Tract No. 1, a historic foundation. The foundation appears to represent a sandstone slab foundation of an outbuilding/shed. This feature is located on the eastern slope of the hill that flanks Fourmile Creek valley. Most of the remains of this structure appear to have been removed leaving only a sandstone slab foundation capped by a 12.7 cm (5 inches) thick cement slab. Some cracked 2 x 4's and roofing shingles littered the area. The structure measured approximately 3 meters (10 feet) by 4.5 meters (15 feet). No historical habitation materials such as dishes, furniture, cans, metal etc. were observed in or near the structure. Several subsurface auger tests were made around the structure. No artifacts or subsurface middens were encountered in these auger tests. This structure appears to represent

an agricultural/commerical storage shed. Based on the archaeological data, this historic structure was not considered significant and was not recorded on Georgia State Site Forms.

SURVEY TRACT NO. 1
OUT BUILDING/SHED

Survey Tract No. 2

Beginning in the southeast corner of Survey Tract No. 2, the surveyors walked eight parallel north/south linear transects across the property utilizing a compass, natural boundaries of the land, fencelines, and the East Fork of Little River as visual property markers. At the end of the first north linear transect, the surveyors proceeded to move approximately 30 - 50 meters (98-164 feet) to their left and commenced another linear transect sweep southward. All attempts were made to maintain a 30 meter (98 feet) distance between surveyors. Auger subsurface test units were placed approximately every 50 meters (164 feet) along the north/south transects. In areas of high probability for human occupation additional auger test units were placed. (See Figure 3) Although the majority of the project area exhibited an undulating terrain, there was a small portion of the project area east of the East Fork of Little River near the base of the hill flanking the stream valley, which was slightly higher and leveler than the areas closer to the stream. Surveyors placed several auger test units along this area. In addition, particular attention was paid to all exposed land surfaces such as cow paths, field road ruts, and the exposed banks of the East Fork of Little River. River bank soil profiles and auger tests indicated a 1 to 2 meter thick layer

of fine alluvium sand capping the entire project area. No cultural resources were observed in Survey Tract No. 2.

Survey Tract No. 3

Surveyors began in the southwest corner of Survey Tract No. 3. Spaced approximately 20 to 50 meters (66-164 feet) apart, the surveyors walked three parallel linear transects northeastward along the east bank of Mud Creek. All attempts were made to maintain the 20 meter (66 feet) distance between surveyors. At the end of this transect they crossed Mud Creek and walked three parallel linear transects southwestward towards the property boundary. Dense vegetation and ground cover required the surveyors to periodically clear the ground surface of leaves and debris. Every 30 to 50 meters (98-164 feet) surveyors would clear a one meter square area of leaves and/or vegetation. Auger tests were occasionally placed within these cleared areas. (See Figure 4) Particular attention was paid to the cut banks of Mud Creek. As with Survey Tract No. 2, this entire portion of the Mud Creek floodplain exhibits undulating terrain capped with 1 to 2 meters (3-7 feet) of fine grain alluvial sand. No cultural resources were observed or recovered.

Survey Tract No. 4

Beginning near the west side of Belton Bridge, the surveyors spaced themselves approximately 30 to 50 meters (98-164 feet) apart and walked three parallel northerly transects along the west bank of the Chattahoochee River. Even though the Chattahoochee River had risen considerably over the last few days, it was still much lower than its normal summer pool. There was ample river bank exposed to permit one surveyor to walk along the edge of the water but below the river bank. This transect provided an excellent view of project area soil stratigraphy and provided the opportunity to locate possible deeply buried archaeological sites. The other two surveyors walked parallel transects along the well developed sand levees. The bottomland woods vegetation in most areas provided easy movement and good ground visibility. However, in certain areas dense stands of cane, briers, and/or vines caused the surveyors to alter their transects to the left or right to avoid such areas. It became quickly apparent based on riverbank soil profiles, subsurface auger tests, and ground visibility that the likelihood of locating surface archaeological remains in this highly alluviated area would be minimal. Two to three meters of alluvial sand capped Survey Tract No. 4.

A portion of Survey Tract No. 4 continued northward along the east shore of the Chattahoochee River. Beginning at the confluence of Mud Creek and the Chattahoochee River, the surveyors intensely searched the eastern shore portion of Survey Tract No. 4 for archaeological resources. One historic feature, an old bridge pier and access ramp were observed in this area. Three sandstone slabs and cement bridge piers, two within the project area and one on the opposite shore of Mud Creek, were observed. The piers are paralleling Mud Creek, approximately 20 meters (64 feet) upstream from its confluence with the Chattahoochee River. All three piers were of similar construction. Each was a meter (3 feet) wide by

3.5 meter (12 feet) long by 1.5 meter (4 feet) high sandstone slab foundation capped by trapezoidal cement block. Iron cross timber attachment bolts were on top of the cement block, and cross timbers still ran between the two piers on the project area side of the Creek. An access ramp berm of loose angular stone was visible sloping up to the pier farthest from the Creek. Since a new highway bridge parallels this structure a few meters upstream along Mud Creek, the surveyors surmised this was probably the earlier light duty road bridge depicted in the 1964 Lula, Georgia topographic sheet.

MUD CREEK PIER

The eastern bank survey of Survey Tract No. 4 was identical to that along the western side. The only differences observed were that the floodplain was narrower, and the levee swale system which was prominent along the west side was not evident here. In effect, the terrain was leveler. No archaeological resources were observed.

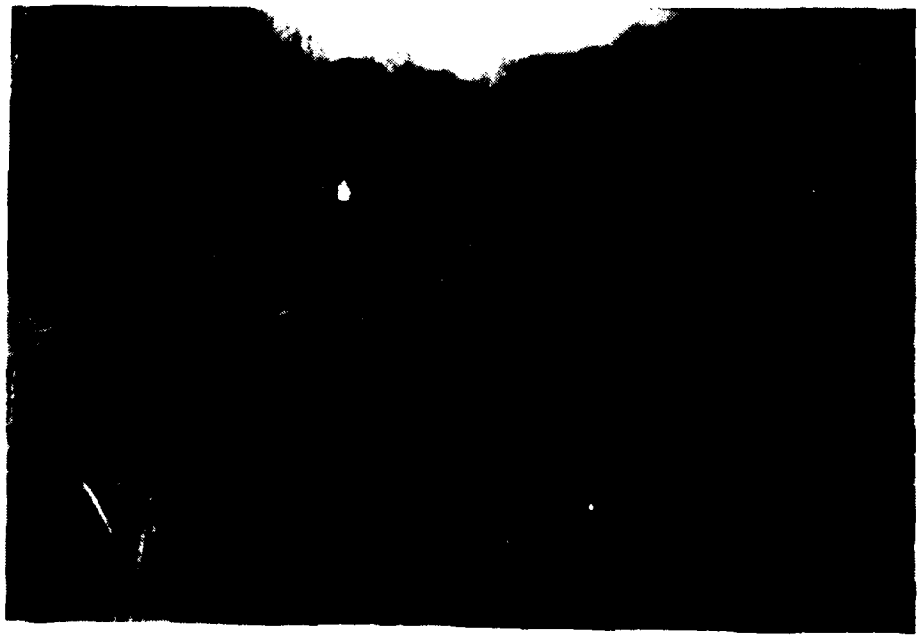
Survey Tract No. 5

Survey Tract No. 5 was very similar to Survey Tract No. 4. Along the inside of the river banks, the terrain was characterized by a large sand levee separated by shallow basin swales, where the channel flowed

on a straighter course the floodplain was characterized by sandy, slightly undulating terrain. Survey techniques were the same as described for survey Tract No. 4. Auger tests and river bank soil profiles indicated 2 to 3 meters (7-10 feet) of sand alluvium. (See Figure 5)

Along the western edge of an old meander scar, surveyors discovered a prehistoric site. (See Figure 5) Angular cobbles were observed in the sandy soil matrix of the meander scar. It was amongst these cobbles the surveyors recovered nine sand tempered plain and simple stamped body sherds and one unmodified chunk of quartzite. All the ceramic sherds were badly eroded. This material was removed from a narrow 8 meter (26 feet) by 10 meter (32 feet) strip of land on the western edge of the field and/or meander scar. All of the artifactual material may have been deposited by alluvial action. However, the surveyors observed the site continued westward into what is now dense woods and underbrush. This slightly higher area may represent an ancient terrace or eroded ridge spur. Multiple subsurface auger tests in both the field and adjacent brush did not reveal any subsurface features, middens, or artifacts. (See Figure 5) Based on the ceramic artifacts, this site appears to be a Woodland and/or Mississippian aboriginal site. This site was assigned the temporary field number, JSU 1. The lack of subsurface materials coupled with scant surface remains resulted in the surveyors not recommending this site for further investigation.

PREHISTORIC SITE, JSU 1



South of the located prehistoric site, the surveyors crossed the Chattahoochee River and continued downstream along the eastern bank. No

additional cultural resources were observed or recovered.

Survey Tract No. 6

Survey Tract No. 6 lies between the eastern shore of the Chestatee River and Georgia Highway 60 with a small portion lying on the opposite western bank. The surveyors began in the northwest corner of the project area, spaced themselves approximately 20 to 30 meters (66-98 feet) apart and walked three parallel linear transects towards Georgia Highway 400. All attempts were made to maintain the 20 meter (66 feet) distance between surveyors. Subsurface auger tests were placed approximately every 50 meters (164 feet) along the transects. (See Figure 6) Auger tests and river bank soil profiles indicated a 1 to 2 meter (3 to 6 feet) sandy alluvial cap across the entire project area. No other cultural resources were observed or recovered on Survey Tract No. 6.

Survey Tract No. 7

Survey Tract No. 7 lies approximately one kilometer (.6 miles) downstream from Survey Tract No. 6. In many areas along this portion of the Chestatee, the surrounding hills come directly down onto the River shoreline. Large boulders and bedrock are frequently exposed at the edge of the water. The shoreline soil profile and auger tests indicated a 1 to 2 meter (3 to 6 feet) of alluvial sand covered the level portions of this survey tract. (See Figure 7) No cultural resources were observed or recovered from Survey Tract No. 7.

Survey Suggestions

Based on the data gained from the archaeological survey of the seven selected tracts of Federal lands at Lake Sidney Lanier several suggestions may expedite and facilitate future investigations on federal properties in similar environments. In areas with 2 meters (7 feet) or more alluvial deposits, it may be futile to locate surface or shallow subsurface sites between the river/stream bank edge and the base of the upland slopes. Considerable time and effort were spent to achieve 100% coverage, walking miles and miles of homogeneous sandy levee/swale terrain and not observing a single modified or unmodified rock. Although hand augering was quite easy in the sandy soil matrix, the results of each test became quite predictable. Sites buried 2 meters or more would be almost impossible to detect with a 2.5 cm (1 inch) diameter hand auger. The surveyors seriously doubt that few, if any, deeply buried sites could be located even with a 20 cm (.8 inch) diameter mechanical auger. The probability of "pulling up" ten or more artifacts from deeply buried sites, within a tightly defined area with the auger bit is extremely low. Backhoes and other power equipment may locate deeply buried sites, but they are neither economical, practical, nor necessary for the initial stages of archaeological investigations.

In addition, sites presently buried under 2 meters (6.4 feet) or more of sandy alluvium are well protected from minor surface modifications. If future developments within the project area require substantial subsurface disturbance, the use of heavy earth moving equipment should

be used for the removal of the deep alluvial deposits in designated construction locations to insure that no significant cultural resources are destroyed.

Survey data suggests it would be more economical and efficient to spend survey time examining areas along the exposed shoreline/banks and along the more eroded base of the hills leading down onto the floodplains. The heavy alluvial floodplain deposits create an artificially low probability area for locating archaeological sites in an area one would normally expect to be an optimal habitation area. Occasional spot check transects across the central floodplain area should be made to assess terrain and/or ground artifact visibility. Judgemental sampling should be applied to all potentially high probability areas in the central floodplains areas. Surveyors could use their own judgement to check terraces/levees, agricultural fields, road cuts, or other historic disturbances within the central floodplain area.

CURATION STATEMENT

All artifacts recovered from the Lake Sidney Lanier cultural resource survey will be curated at the Office of Archaeological Research, Mound State Monument, Moundville, Alabama.

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